

## **Severe Cold Weather Alert December 15, 2016 to December 17, 2016**

TO: DEMHS Regional Coordinators, Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, Emergency Management Directors and Local First Responders

FROM: Deputy Commissioner William P. Shea, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Commissioner Evonne Klein, Department of Housing  
Commissioner Roderick Bremby, Department of Social Services  
Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittman, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

DATE: December 14, 2016

-----

At the direction of Governor Dannel P. Malloy, the Department of Emergency Services/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DESPP/DEMHS), Department of Housing (DOH), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the Department of Social Services (DSS), United Way 2-1-1, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, and other partners are implementing the severe cold weather protocol to ensure adequate shelter space during the severe cold weather.

The protocol is being activated as a result of the forecasted bitter cold temperatures and strong winds, resulting in single digit temperatures with wind chill factors below zero, Thursday night through Saturday morning. The protocol will remain in effect from 4:00 pm Thursday, December 15, until Saturday December 17 at 10:00 am.

Governor Malloy encourages cities and towns to consider opening warming centers or other facilities to help those in need. In addition, we want to ensure that if local shelters or other facilities used during cold weather emergencies reach their capacities, there is a system in place to find out where there is space so they can direct individuals and families accordingly.

If you receive a call from someone looking for shelter and you are not aware of any shelter space, please direct the person to 2-1-1. DEMHS will open an Incident on WebEOC, "Severe Cold Weather December 15-17, 2016." If your town opens a shelter or warming center, please indicate its status on WebEOC. Working with local shelters, 2-1-1 will act as a clearinghouse to ensure that shelter space is found for those that need it. Please spread the word of this critical service provided by 2-1-1.

On behalf of the Governor, we thank you again for your hard work and dedication all year round—and especially in these cold and stormy winter months—to help individuals and families.